

# CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

## AGENDA ITEM 15

2 July 2009

### BOARD OF GOVERNORS

#### NOTES AND REPORTS ON FOUNDATION TRUST GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION ACTIVITY SINCE BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING ON APRIL 2 2009.

##### Report of Brian Gerbaldi, CUH representative and national Vice-Chairman

I spend some time every day on FTGA work, be it answering e-mails and telephone calls or in discussion with some department or member.

**15<sup>th</sup> April 2009** – I attended a working light lunch in London with Keith Pearson, Chairman of the East of England Strategic Health Authority. Sharon Carr-Brown, FTGA Chairman, also attended and the meeting was very productive. Following that meeting at which Keith was very supportive of Governors and wants them involved at every stage, Sharon and I have been invited to take part in meetings of panels looking at various developments within the NHS. This shows that we have attained credibility and are now being asked for Governors opinions at the outset rather than as an afterthought to gain a mandate.

**22<sup>nd</sup> April 2009** – The FTGA National Development Day in London. As Vice-Chairman, I chaired two items. One was a choice presentation into the appointment of NED's and the Nomination and Remuneration Committee. It involved a Governor from Bradford and members of Odgers. I will allow my colleagues to report on this. The other was a main seminar into Involvement with Youth and ACTIVE where acted as the facilitator. The speakers panel included Sally Rees and Lizzie Kostov, plus an excellent speaker from the Youth Parliament and a 15 year old lady, (going on 35), who is current Chairman of Hampshire Youth Council. The debate was very lively and informative and was voted the best part of the day, so congratulations to Sally and Lizzie. We have had many requests for further information regarding ACTIVE.

**28<sup>th</sup> April 2009** – FTGA/FTN Training Day for new Governors, London region day. I attended this to make the presentation on behalf of the FTGA. I believe the feedback is positive.

**13<sup>th</sup> May 2009** – Sharon Carr-Brown and I attended the BMA in London to present on behalf of the FTGA to the entire FT Leads from all of the SHA's around the country, plus some senior managers from the NHS. We made the presentation and had to field numerous questions but the result was very positive and we believe we now have a much better understanding and respect from the SHAs. We trust it will lead to more involvement of Governors with the SHAs at earlier stages in future.

**13<sup>th</sup> May 2009** – A quick taxi dash back to the Kings Fund for a meeting with someone from the Co-Operative College. We are exploring ways where we can gain outside assistance into joint training ventures for Governors at every stage, not just new Governors. Initial proposals from this meeting have not been satisfactory but worth pursuing to try and reach agreement. We are determined that we remain impartial and democratic and not be used as a vehicle for commercial presentations. Everything must be for the benefit of our members.

**20<sup>th</sup> May 2009** – I attended the inaugural Shadow Board Meeting of West Suffolk Governors. I presented on behalf of the FTGA. West Suffolk has already joined the FTGA and will be sending 14 members to the FTGA/FTN Training day in Cambridge. I ask my colleagues from Cambridge who are attending to assist these new Governors on the day as London and other venues have shown that they do need some help in understanding the intricacies of the NHS.

**3<sup>rd</sup> June 2009** – FTGA Executive meeting in London (Kings Fund). Many items were on the agenda from the Chairman who wants sweeping changes to the Constitution (I will resist many of these as unnecessary and the Chairman has a passion about grammatical correctness which cannot apply to legal documents as it will change the legality). We also need to set the budget for next year for presentation to delegates in October and discuss the tender for our facilitators, the SLA with the Kings Fund nearing the end of its term. We are happy with their work for us but there are some areas, not least clarity of charges, which need negotiation. The new term, whoever it is granted to, must be stronger for the FTGA members and more open in its component parts. One item that must be changed in the Constitution is the date of the AGM and there will need to be a slight alteration for this year to facilitate that change. It is to do with the date of the annual report and the agreement of budget which currently happens retrospectively. **Note: Finance & Constitution Committee meeting now on June 19<sup>th</sup> at the Kings Fund**

**9<sup>th</sup> June 2009** – FTGA/FTN Training Day for new Governors in the East of England was held at Clare College in Cambridge. I was pleased some of my colleagues, particularly those new to us, attended, and grateful to those more experienced colleagues who attended and mentored newer governors. I am sure their support to the newer governors was appreciated.

The ballot papers for the FTGA Chairman/Vice Chairman and Executive members will be despatched to Trust Secretaries for passing on to the Appointed Representative (that is me for our Trust) on the 17<sup>th</sup> June. I am sure our Trust Secretary will ensure that our ballot paper is made available to me as soon as received. I will then arrange a meeting with Georgina Pharaoh, Judith Ewer and Lorne Williamson to discuss where I will place the votes on behalf of our Trust. This would seem to be the fairest way to do this, as we are the ones who have best knowledge of most of the candidates and I would like input from them. I trust you will approve and support me in this. The ballot closes on 27<sup>th</sup> July and I would like to ensure that I get our form to the ERS as early as possible. The candidates will be notified of the results on or by July 30<sup>th</sup>.

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Brian Gerbaldi CInstSMM  
National Vice Chairman: NHS Foundation Trust Governors Association